

REMARKS

Claims 11-19, 21-23, 25, 26, 51, 53, 56-60, 64 and 65 are pending.

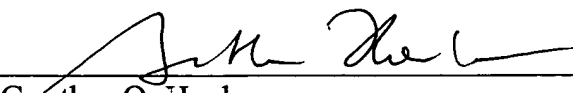
The Examiner rejected claims 11-19, 21-23, 25, 26, 51, 53, 56-60, 64 and 65 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Evard (US 5,242,396) in view of Lee et al. (US 6,733,486), stating that Evard discloses the invention substantially as claimed except for the proximal section of the mandrel being annealed while the distal section of the mandrel is not annealed, and Lee et al. teaches that a polymeric mandrel can be secured to a polymeric catheter by conventional means such as adhesives or heat fusion (wherein heat fusion involves heating and cooling, and thus is the same as annealing).

However, the Lee et al. patent does not have an effective filing date prior to Applicant's application. Therefore, Lee et al. is not available as a reference as applied by the Examiner against Applicant's application.

In light of the above remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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